

Polar Media Library

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Introduction

How does world of film view the fascinating world of the North and South Poles? This is a question that is by no means a simple one to answer. Just where do you start when confronted by the plethora of cinematographic looks that have been taken at these immense areas of the world, where authentic films about Inuit communities rub shoulders, much further to the south, with the science-fiction of John Carpenter?

So, because mapping these offerings is far from straightforward, we have cast a few lengthy lines of latitude to try and do justice to the fascination that the poles seem to hold for film-makers. The list we have made here is broken down into four categories:

- “Poles and Peoples”
- “Polar Adventure”
- “Pole’p Fiction”
- “Polar Ecosystems”.

You will not find a comprehensive listing here of every production linked to the polar regions. Instead, you will find a number of films that have been selected for their artistic qualities, their scientific thoroughness and their ease of access (DVD / VHS) to the general public. Our aim is to get across as broad an image as possible of the variety and depth of “polar cinema”.

As we have said, this is by no means a definitive list. But we very much hope that it is a good place to begin your very own “Polar Film Festival”!



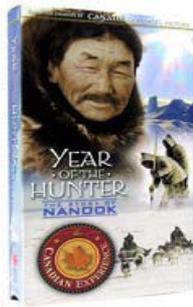
“Poles and Peoples”

Pride of place goes to the people who live there - Inuits, Dolgans, Samis, etc. - the hardiness, way of life, social structure and customs of these legendary people who have inspired film-makers since the dawn of cinema. For example, let's look at the very first documentary of all time - *Nanook of the North* - produced by Robert Flaherty in 1922. Filmed in those “*desolate and stony lands....that sit atop the world*”, the story follows the search for food by the very young Nanook and his family in the area of Ungava in the north of the province of Quebec. The harshness of the life depicted by Flaherty is in direct relation to the immediate and resounding success of the film, which propelled the smiling young “bear” (which is what the word Nanook means in the Inuktitut language) to a level of popularity comparable with that of Charlie Chaplin. Criticised for its use of reconstructions of the primitive life of the Inuits at a time when they had already traded in their harpoons for hunting rifles and other Western paraphernalia, the film nevertheless marks a turning point in the history of film-making and remains a document of rare intensity, especially when we bear in mind that Nanook himself died of starvation within a year of filming being completed.

Standing out from the long list of producers looking to follow in the ice-clad footsteps of Flaherty and capture footage of these amazing ways of life, is the French anthropologist and ethnologist Jean Malaurie. A highly erudite scientist, photographer and film-maker, Malaurie set off on a solo expedition in 1951, lasting fourteen months, to Greenland in the area around Thule, to film in the world's most northerly hamlet of just three hundred souls. It was here that he witnessed an irreversible tragedy: the building by the Americans of a nuclear military base in the heart of the Korean War. In 1968, a plane carrying four nuclear bombs crashed into the pack-ice. Malaurie set out immediately again for Thule, where he filmed a documentary with the “truth of impression” so cherished by him, as testament to lives of this people threatened with extinction.

A word also for the Yagans, the “Inuits from down there”, who have lived in Tierra del Fuego and the area around Cape Horn for thousands of years. In Anne Chapman's film, **Homage to Yagans: The Last Indians of Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn**, we follow the story of Jemmy Button, the best known of the Yagans, who was taken to England in 1831 by Captain Robert Fitzroy during his first expedition to Patagonia, and returned to his home, two years later during Fitzroy's second expedition, accompanied by Charles Darwin...

Listing :



The Year of the Hunter: The Story of Nanook

Region: Arctic

Directed by : Mark Starowicz

Running Time : 45m

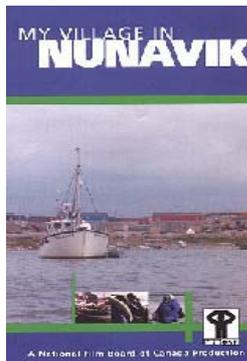
Year: 2004

Available on DVD

Links:

The story of Robert Flaherty and the dramatic tale behind the making of the first non-fiction film. Robert Flaherty was the very first to bring us a film based on the idea that reality could be as gripping as fiction. After years as an explorer in Canada's North, and funded by a fur trading company, he undertook the mission of chronicling the life of an Inuit hunter near Port Harrison, on the eastern shore of Hudson's Bay. At the end of his stay with Nanook and the community, Flaherty gathered everyone on the stony beach and bade them farewell, with these words:

"I must go now. But I carry with me those images, which we have gathered together. And one day soon, as many people as there are stones on this beach will know of your existence, and your story. Farewell."



My village in Nunavik

Region: Arctic

Directed by: Bobby Kenuajuk

Running Time : 46 min.

Year : 1999

Available in VHS

My Village in Nunavik provides a glimpse of daily life over the course of three seasons, in the village of Puvirnituk, in northern Quebec. The excitement of spring and summer hunting, the fun of games and contests in order to break the monotony of a seemingly endless winter, and the blending of modern technology with centuries-old traditions are the subject of this documentary. Bobby

Kenuajuak, the producer of this video, is clearly attached to the people and life of the village in which he grew up. Not only does he see value in those aspects of southern civilization which have made easier the difficult business of survival in the North, but he also honours and respects those aspects of traditional life which are healthier, spiritually and physically, for the Inuit.



Pegtymel

Region: Arctic

Directed by : Andrei Golovnev

Running Time : 32 min

Year : 1999

Available in VHS

Links: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~arctic/Video/>

"Pegtymel is a visual poem on the summer life of a reindeer-breeding Chukchi group. With stunning sensitivity and ethnographic intelligence the author photographs mostly camp activities. Against this background unfolds a tale of visions induced by the hallucinogenic fly agaric, mirrored also in old petroglyphs. Assembled together in a coherent mosaic structure, the visual materials give the impression of a cultural whole, of a global cultural form. A rare achievement indeed."
- Asen Balikci, Anthropology Today (December 2000)

Filmed on the Chukotka Peninsula in the summers of 1998 and 1999, this video won the Grand Prix at the 2nd annual Russian Anthropological Film Festival held in Salekhard, Russia in 2000.



Cods' fishing in Newfoundland.

Region: Arctic

Directed by : L.Giraudineau and P.Lespinasse

Running Time : 26 min

Year : 1996

Available in VHS

Links: Zarafa films www.zarafa-films.com

Not all of Newfoundland's ports can be reached by land. It can only be reached by sea. But why should anyone stay there? Out of tradition. Through the generations, like father like son, the men

fish cod. Throughout the winter and summer, Francis, Leslie, and Vince live by, and for fishing. But if the fish should one day disappear , so will the people of Newfoundland.



Homage to Yagans: The Last Indians of Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn

Region: South America (Cape Horn / Austral Ocean)

Directed by: Anne Chapman

Running Time : 40 min.

Year : 1990

Available in VHS

Links: <http://www.der.org/films/homage-to-yagans.html>

This video was filmed with 16mm cameras in Tierra del Fuego and the Cape Horn area (Chile and Argentina regions facing the Austral Ocean) during the summer of 1987 and the winter of 1988. It was first presented in the United States at the New York Academy of Sciences in early 1990.

The video's purpose is twofold. The first is to achieve an understanding of certain episodes of western expansion, beginning in the early seventeenth century, which finally led to the extinction of the Yahgan people. The second is to gain an appreciation of the courage and fortitude of a people who had survived for thousands of years in one of the most inhospitable regions of the planet, but who had been judged by many Europeans as the most degraded human beings in the entire world. Homage to the Yagans focuses on the personality and life of a Yahgan called "Jemmy Button" who was taken to England in 1831 by Captain Fitz-Roy and returned to his homeland two years later during Fitz-Roy's second expedition, in the company of Charles Darwin. Jemmy Button died in 1864, a victim of the first in a series of epidemics which decimated his people.



The Ultimate Kings of Thule

Region: Arctic

Directed by : Jean Malaurie

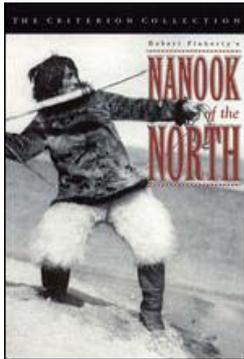
Running Time : 52 min.

Year: 1970

Available in VHS

Links: Zarafa films - www.zarafa-films.com

In 1951, Jean Malaurie, a geographer and anthropologist, led a fourteen-month solo expedition to Greenland. He stayed in the region of Thule, a hamlet of 300 inhabitants at the northernmost part of the planet. There he witnessed an irreparable tragedy when the Americans built a nuclear military base during the Korean war. In 1968, a plane crashed on the floe. It was loaded with four bombs, which were pulverized. Jean Malaurie went back to Thule. There he shot a documentary film to show the world the everyday life of a legendary people who might disappear altogether.



Nanook of the North

Region: Arctic

Directed by : Robert Flaherty

Running Time : 79 min

Year : 1922

Available in VHS and DVD

As fascinating and suspenseful as any fictional movie adventure, *Nanook of the North* remains, 80 years after its premiere, a landmark film both in the history of the documentary movement and of the cinema itself.

In 1920, explorer and filmmaker Robert Flaherty called upon his ten years of experience in the frigid sub-zero Hudson Bay region of Canada to make a "photoplay" about life there. As his subject, he cast the Eskimo hunter Nanook and a photogenic "family," personalities so real that no Hollywood screenwriter could have dreamed them up. With unobtrusive, quietly powerful cinematography, Flaherty proceeded to film one stunning sequence after another of Nanook's cold and primitive existence. The result is a documentary arresting in its immediacy, full of the stark action of desperate hunts for food, and warmed by the inspiring efforts of a family who must fight together for survival. Nanook himself actually died of starvation only two years after shooting was completed, a fact that only strengthens the film's extraordinary impact.

“Polar Adventure”

We have conducted an ongoing love affair with the great southern lands ever since James Cook’s expedition to the Antarctic in 1772-1774. The Far North is another part of the world that has long held us in thrall, with ancient stories of the “open sea” at the North Pole, the Northwest Passage, the Bering Straits and so on.

The literal magnetism of the poles, combined with more pragmatic “Reasons of State”, triggered a race for the pole at the beginning of the 20th century - adventures followed with keen interest and enthusiasm by the press and the public alike, safely back in the warm at home. During this unforgettable era, the media fostered rivalry between Peary and Cook for the conquest of the North Pole, then - more tragically - the race between Amundsen and Scott to reach the South Pole. Both tussles have become etched in our psyche forever in terms of cold, physical endurance and heroism - not to mention a few less-than-chivalrous moments along the way. All of these misADVENTURES are encapsulated well by SueAnn Finck in her film **Race for The Poles**.

But let us dwell for a moment on the following newspaper advertisement: *“Men wanted for perilous voyage - Poor pay - Intense cold - Long months of darkness - Constant danger - Return doubtful - Honour and fame in the event of success”*. Legend has it that that was how the first expedition led by Sir Ernest Shackleton began... However, it was not until 1914 that the greatest adventure in polar history - The Voyage of *Endurance* - set out from London. Two years of drifting in the midst of the Antarctic ice, followed by a staggering rescue attempt - all captured so poignantly on celluloid by Frank Hurley, the expedition’s cameraman and great forerunner of today’s adventure films. For details of this epic story, see George Butler and his excellent DVD, [The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition](#)

In addition to these classics, this list also features other tales from much more recent expeditions where the element of adventure is just as intense. Such as **Mike Horn’s** circumpolar voyages, or coming to this list very soon, the trials and tribulations of a certain **Mr Hubert...**

Listing :



Arktos: Mike Horn's Inner Journey traduire
20,000 km solo round the Arctic Circle

Region: Arctic

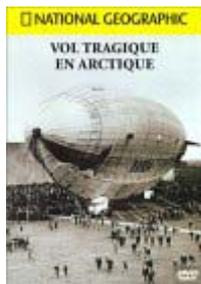
Directed by: Raphaël Blanc

Running Time : 83 min.

Year : 2005

Available in DVD

After becoming the first man to travel round the world along the equator in 2000, Mike has now changed latitude. This time, he has opted to remain between latitudes 66.5° and 76°, spending 24 months making a solo, non-motorised journey of 20,000 km round the Polar Circle, crossing northern Europe, Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Siberia in the process. He travelled on foot and on skis, occasionally assisted by a kite, as well as by sailing boat and canoe. Behind him he hauled a sledge weighing in at over 200 kg as he faced dangers too numerous to mention and tamed the loneliness of the desolate Arctic plateaux day after day.



Arctic Disaster: Crash Of The Airship Italia

Region: Arctic

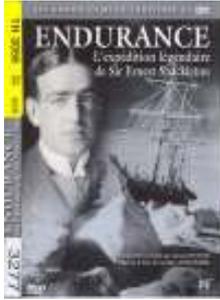
Directed by: Several

Running Time : 52 min.

Year : 2003

Available in DVD

In 1925, the renowned Italian aeronautical engineer and explorer Umberto Nobile flew over the North Pole in a dirigible, at the time a considerable feat both of engineering and scientific inquiry. All went well, and in 1928 Nobile attempted to repeat the feat, this time planning on stopping at the pole and landing parties. Unfortunately, Nobile was no longer in favor with the increasingly strident Fascist government and faced many political and physical obstacles. However, he managed to get the expedition airborne and reached the pole safely. On the return leg, the airship foundered in foul weather, stranding the survivors on the icecap. A bizarre tragedy ensued, with searchers from many nations looking for Nobile while the Italian support ship conspicuously failed to participate....



The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition

Region: Antarctica

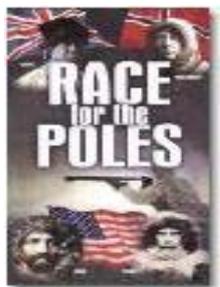
Directed by: George Butler

Running Time : 92 min.

Year : 2002

Available in DVD

Several films have documented or dramatized the incredible saga of Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated trans-Antarctic expedition, but *The Endurance* offers the most comprehensive one-source reference. Originally presented as a PBS *Nova* special and narrated by Liam Neeson, this excellent film--based on Caroline Alexander's acclaimed book, also titled after the ironic name of Shackleton's doomed ship--chronicles the astonishing events of 1914-16, when Shackleton and 27 crewmen survived against all odds after their ship was crushed in the polar ice floes. This is the only "Shackleton" film to incorporate new footage, expert interviews, dramatic recreations (without dialogue), and expedition photographer Frank Hurley's archival film and photographs. The cumulative effect of this extensive material gives the viewer an almost palpable sense of the expedition's hardship and unlikely survival, made possible in part by a man who had precisely the required experience and leadership skills, and in part by what can only be described as divine intervention. No matter how you interpret it, this is rightly called "the greatest survival story ever told."



Race for the Poles

Region: Arctic / Antarctica

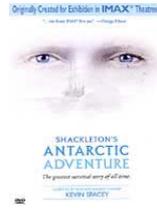
Directed by: SueAnn Finck

Running Time : 100 min.

Year : 2001

Available in VHS

This amazing story tells the tale of those brave and ambitious adventurers who sought to be the first men to stand on the Earth's geographical poles. Their names - Perry, Cook, Amundsen, and Scott - will forever be synonymous with the frozen regions they sought to conquer. This fascinating and informative program presents new insights into the events surrounding these adventurers and their missions of discovery to the north and south poles.



Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure - An IMAX Film

Region: Antarctica

Directed by: George Butler

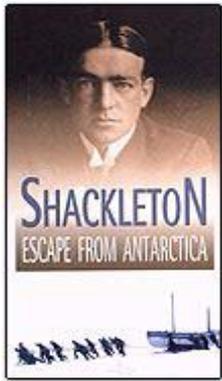
Running Time : 40 min.

Year : 2001

Available in DVD

Links: <http://main.wgbh.org/imax/shackleton/>

Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure is a giant-screen film that tells the extraordinary true story of polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton's now-legendary 1914-1916 British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. While never accomplishing its goal of the first crossing of the Antarctic continent, this expedition has become a larger-than-life testament to heroism and human endurance, with all 28 men surviving nearly two years in the barren, frigid Antarctic when their ship, *Endurance*, was caught in pack ice and eventually crushed.



Shackleton - Escape From Antarctica

Region: Antarctica

Directed by: several

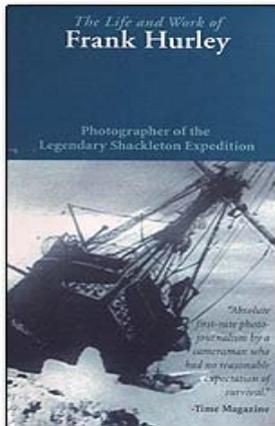
Running Time : 52 min.

Year : 1999

Available in VHS

In 1914, explorer Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men set out aboard his ship, *Endurance*, in pursuit to be the first to cross the continent of Antarctica via the South Pole. Instead, *Endurance* became locked in sea ice, and for nine grueling months he fought a losing battle to save his ship, which was finally crushed by the relentless pack ice. Shackleton and his crew then drifted for five more months on ice floes, enduring inhuman cold and violent storms until they reached a barren rock called Elephant Island. Then, he and four members of his crew embarked on a treacherous 850-mile voyage across dangerous open seas in a tiny 22-foot boat and miraculously reached South Georgia Island.

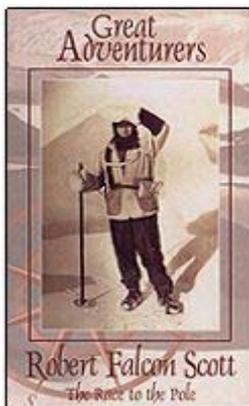
This absorbing program tells the story of one of the most famous chapters in the history of exploration, as recreated by an Irish team of adventurers who retraced Shackleton's epic journey. The program intertwines stunning photographs, film footage, and diary quotes from Shackleton's original voyage with the exploits of the modern-day team of explorers and adventurers.



The Life and Work of Frank Hurley

Region: Antarctica / other
Directed by: Anthony Buckley
Running Time : 60 min.
Year : 1999
Available in VHS

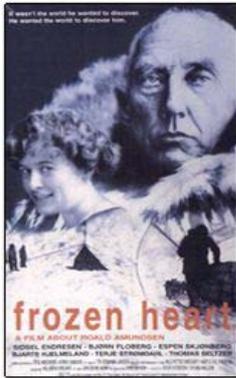
Narrated by Leo McKern (*Rumpole of the Bailey*), this is a compelling biography of a pioneer cameraman, war photographer, explorer, film director, writer, lecturer and broadcaster, **Frank Hurley** - one of the world's finest still photographers. From outback Australia to the deserts of the Middle East to Antarctica, this program shows his extraordinary skills and achievements.



Robert Falcon Scott - The race to the Pole

Region: Antarctica
Directed by: Ringo Lam
Running Time : 50 min.
Year : 1999
Available in DVD

Robert Falcon Scott's doomed attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole became a race against his Norwegian rival Roald Amundsen. On his fateful second journey, Scott made decisions which involved taking great risks, and these still cause controversy today.



Amundsen - Frozen Heart

Region: Antarctica

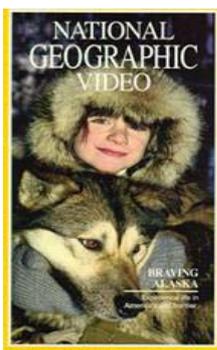
Directed by: Stig Andersen and Kenny Sanders

Running Time : 90 min.

Year : 1999

Available in VHS

Roald Amundsen (1872-1928) was his generation's greatest polar explorer, and probably the best known Norwegian of his time. "Frozen Heart" spends less time on his spectacular achievements on the ice, these stories have been told before. All Amundsen's expeditions were very well documented. From the South Pole journey in 1911 and onwards he used moving images. In "Frozen Heart", these moving images are telling the story behind the splendid celebrations. The film rather portrays the deeply frustrated character of a great man. A man who was unable to give love, but who died as a hero when his plane crashed in the Arctic Ocean during the noble mission of saving his worst enemy.



Braving Alaska

Region: Arctic

Directed by: several

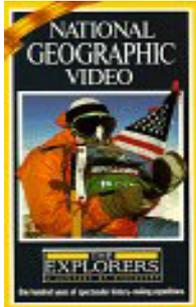
Running Time : 59 min.

Year : 1992

Available in VHS

Links: <http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/>

Imagine living hundreds of miles from your nearest neighbor or grocery store and having mail delivered twice a year. Endure the harsh winters of -51 degrees Celsius with four Alaskan bush families as they face the daily challenges of survival.



The Explorers: A Century of Discovery

Region: Arctic / Antarctica / other

Directed by: several

Running Time : 55 min.

Year : 1988

Available in DVD

Links: <http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/>

For more than a century National Geographic has participated in and chronicled many of the world's greatest explorations—unlocking the secrets of the oceans, lifting men into the stratosphere, and mapping the very boundaries of the earth, sea, and sky. Now you can relive some of the most significant expeditions in history. Follow Robert E. Peary to the North Pole...join Jane Goodall for her pioneering work with chimpanzees...climb Mount Everest on the first American ascent. Marvel at 100 years of exploration in the Society's official centennial presentation.

“Pole’p Fiction”

The special alchemy between extreme cold and the marvel of life exuded by the polar regions is a powerful source of inspiration. There are many works of fiction that use the frozen wastes as a backdrop. Let’s look at three of them:

Atanarjuat, the fast runner - This very good film by Zacarias Kunuk, awarded a Gold Camera at Cannes, revitalises polar cinema. The story is set in the heart of an Inuit tribe, a microcosm recreated in remarkable fashion for the film, with immense care lavished on the costumes and the re-enactment of scenes of traditional Inuit life.

In the words of Emmanuel Hussenet, *“Going inside an igloo to see what is going on seems to delight the western subconscious, as though ancestral Inuit life were linked to a past common to us all”*. So attention is focused on the day-to-day life of a community, that we discover through the special pace generated by the camera and through a very understated treatment of the Arctic exterior.

This same slow and deliberate camera rhythm can also be found with Carroll Ballard in his unforgettable **Never Cry Wolf**. Filmed amid breath-taking exteriors, “Never Cry Wolf” reveals a stunningly beautiful world. Tyler, a young, inexperienced biologist finds himself alone in a deserted and frozen Alaskan wasteland. Once set up, he needs to learn as much as possible about the mysterious behaviour of the wolves. Unlike Atanarjuat, the backdrop focuses more on the hypnotic immensity of the location, culminating in a memorable moment when the main character melts into the scenery in the very middle of a herd of caribou.

Finally, don’t forget **Derzu Uzala**. Winner of the Oscar for the best foreign film in 1975, this story by Akira Kurosawa takes you into the unfathomable silence of the Siberian forests. The rapport that the character Dersu Uzala has with the natural Russian setting, which seeps into every shot of the film like snow, inexorably leads him to his death. The tragic sequence of event begins when a leopard attacks his expedition camp. The hunter fires at the beast to protect his friends, yet at the same time acutely aware that anyone who kills a leopard is guilty of an unjustified murder for which nature has to seek revenge. This belief, which comes from popular Siberian traditions and is revisited through the eyes of the director’s Japanese sensitivity, has the leopard reappear like a Shintoist divinity, all mystery and vengeance...

Listing :



Atanarjuat The Fast Runner

Region: Arctic

Directed by: Zacharias Kunuk

Running Time : 174 min.

Year : 2001

Available in DVD

Links: <http://www.atanarjuat.com/index1.html>

Adapted from an Inuit legend, *The Fast Runner* centers on Atanarjuat, a charismatic young hunter struggling for the affections of Atuat, who has already been promised to Oki, the son of the camp's leader. When Atuat chooses Atanarjuat, Oki seems to accept it, but later events turn his anger and hatred into a murderous spite. This story, as passionate and primal as any film noir, is framed by the daily lives of the Inuit--a struggle for survival that is both simple and vivid, foreign yet immediately understandable. No one in the cast is a professional actor, but the performances are direct and compelling, telling a story that is both epic and intimate.



The Thing

Region: Antarctica

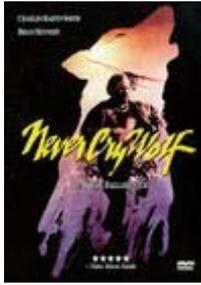
Directed by: John Carpenter

Running Time : 108 min.

Year : 1982

Available in DVD

John Carpenter, director of *Halloween*, *The Fog*, and *Escape From New York*, continues his phenomenal string of hits with *The Thing*, a new version of the classic horror thriller, starring Kurt Russell. It is set in the winter of 1982 at a research station in Antarctica where a twelve man research team finds an alien being that has fallen from the sky and has remained buried in the snow for over 100,000 years. Soon it is unfrozen and unleashed, creating havoc and terror as it changes forms and becomes one of them. Put this frightening story together with outstanding performances, incredible special effects by Roy Arbogast, makeup by Rob Bottin, and special visual effects by master Albert Whitlock and you've got an "Horrific" movie.



Never Cry Wolf

Region: Arctic

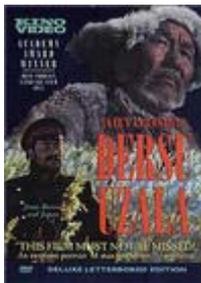
Directed by: Carroll Ballard

Running Time : 81 min.

Year : 1983

Available in DVD

Carroll Ballard's 1983 adaptation of Farley Mowat's autobiographical novel turns his life-changing experience studying the wolves in Canada's inhospitable North into a moving drama of one man's courage and discovery of nature's majesty. Charles Martin Smith plays green biologist Tyler, sent by the Canadian government to "prove" that the wolves are depleting the caribou herds, but what he finds is a natural world in perfect harmony where he becomes a tolerated outsider. Dumped unprepared in the wilds by a hard drinking bush pilot (Brian Dennehy), Tyler learns survival skills from the aged Eskimo who saves his life and the rules of coexistence from a neighbouring wolf (which results in a literal pissing contest as man and beast mark their respective territories). Tyler's journey culminates in the majestic run with the wolf pack, an exhilarating sequence where for an instant he becomes one with natural environment of the wilds. For all its beauty, however, Tyler's experience becomes a bittersweet lesson as the encroachment of hunters, tourism, and the social landscape threaten the natural order.



Dersu Uzala

Region: Arctic

Directed by: Akira Kurosawa

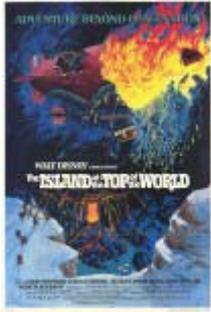
Running Time : 140 min.

Year : 1975

Available in DVD

During an unusual chapter in the career of director Akira Kurosawa (*Rashomon*), the filmmaker went to Russia because he found working in his native Japan to be too difficult. The result was this striking 1975 near-epic based on the turn-of-the-century autobiographical novels of a military explorer (Yuri Solomin) who met and befriended a Goldi man in Russia's unmapped forests. Kurosawa traces the evolution of a deep and abiding bond between the two men, one civilized in the usual sense, the other at home in the sub-zero Siberian woods. There's no question that *Dersu*

Uzala has the muscular, imaginative look of a large-canvas Soviet Mosfilm from the 1970s. But in its energy and insight it is absolutely Kurosawa, from its implicit fascination with the meeting of opposite worlds to certain moments of tranquillity and visual splendor. But nothing looks like Kurosawa more than a magnificent action sequence in which the co-heroes fight against time and exhaustion to stay alive in a wicked snowstorm. For fans of the late legend, this is a Kurosawa not to be missed.



The Island at the Top of the World

Region: Arctic

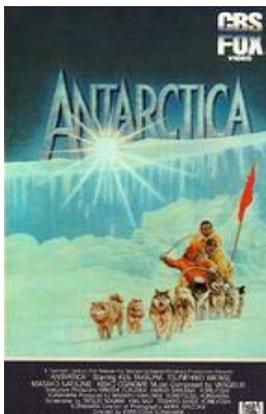
Directed by: Robert Stevenson

Running Time : 94 min.

Year : 1974

Available in DVD

As the film, set in the early 20th century, begins, we learn of an expedition being planned by rich English businessman Sir Anthony Ross (Sinden), one with the intention of finding his son David (Gwillim), who's been lost for the past two years. Seems David had been in the artic searching for the mythical graveyard of whales, as there's gold in them thar whale bones (not actual gold, but the bones fetch a handsome price). Anyway, Ross enlists the aid of American archeologist Prof. John Ivarsson (Hartman), in a round about sort of way, and they proceed in a fantastic airship called the Hyperion, piloted by a froggy Frenchman named Captain Brioux (Jacques Marin). The journey is perilous, but they do manage to find David, with the help of an Eskimo named Oomiak (Mako) living amongst an isolated colony of Vikings on a lush island, located smack dab in the middle of the artic, its' existence due to volcanic hot springs.....



Antarctica

Region: Antarctica

Directed by: Koreyoshi Kurahara

Running Time : 112 min.

Year : 1969

Available in DVD

The gripping story of a Japanese scientific expedition to the Antarctic in 1958. During the expedition, a team of dogs were stranded. Amazingly, several survived until their handlers returned six months later. This extraordinary film, based on a true story, is the second most successful movie ever released in Japan.

“Polar Ecosystems”

The recent success of Luc Jacquet’s natural history **The Emperor’s Journey** is ample proof of the interest that the public at large has for the polar regions. But the film’s success stems from more than its stunning beauty; it is also all about a genuine desire to know about these “polar ecosystems”.

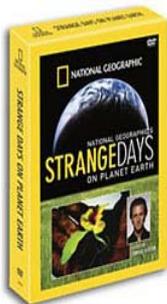
The films featured in this section give you ample opportunity to understand the natural history of these inaccessible (to most of us) regions and the amazing creatures that live in them. The films also demonstrate the impact that man has on the way these “primary forces” operate - forces that until so recently appeared to be beyond the reach of man’s folly.

So try the excellent BBC programme “**Life in the Freezer**”. Painstakingly accurate and narrated in the unflappable and unmistakable tones of the peerless Sir David Attenborough, this documentary provides an outstanding initiation to the world of the Antarctic.

To enable us to better understand the strange things that are happening on our planet - and the efforts scientists are making to decode them - National Geographic has a very good and very recent “world trip” to offer, presented by the actor Edward Norton. **National Geographic’s Strange Days on Planet Earth** is really fascinating. Also take the time to visit the website, which is very well done and highly instructive: http://www.pbs.org/strangedays/index_flash.html

Finally, have a look at the documentary **White Wolves**, by photographer Jim Brandenburg and biologist David Mech, shot on Ellesmere Island, which examines the very rare **Arctic wolves** which encounter people so rarely that they are actually unafraid of us.

Listing :



National Geographic's Strange Days on Planet Earth

Region: Arctic / Antarctica / other

Directed by: Several
Running Time : 240 min.
Year : 2005

Available in DVD

Links: http://www.pbs.org/strangedays/index_flash.html

Around the globe, scientists are racing to solve a series of mysteries. Unsettling transformations are sweeping across the planet, and clue by clue, investigators around the world are assembling a new picture of Earth, discovering ways that seemingly disparate events are connected. Scientists suspect we have entered a time of global change swifter than any human being has ever witnessed. Where are we headed? What can we do to alter this course of events?

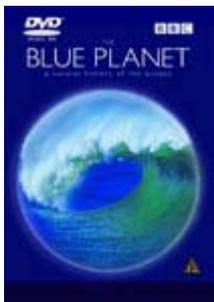


The Emperor's Journey

Region: Antarctica
Directed by: Luc Jacquet
Running Time : 84 min.
Year : 2005

Available in DVD

Each winter , alone in the pitiless ice deserts of Antarctica, deep in the most inhospitable terrain on Earth, a truly remarkable journey takes place, as it has done for millenia. Emperor penguins in their thousands abandon the deep blue security of their ocean home and clamber onto the frozen land to begin their long journey to the continent's desolate interior, a region so bleak, so extreme, it supports no other life. In single file the penguins march, blinded by blizzards, buffeted by 250 k.p.h. gales. Resolute, indomitable, driven by the overpowering urge to reproduce, to assure the survival of the species.....



The Blue Planet

Region: Arctic / Antarctica / other
Directed by: David Attenborough

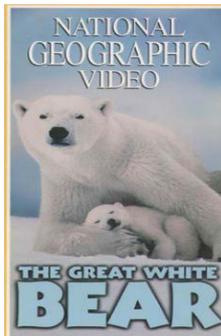
Running Time : 392 min.

Year : 2003

Available in DVD

Links: http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/programmes/who/david_attenborough.shtml

Extraordinary footage and eloquent narration by David Attenborough highlight the BBC's remarkable wildlife series *The Blue Planet: Seas of Life*. "Ocean World" begins with astonishing views of a gigantic blue whale--the elusive Holy Grail of undersea photography--and the marvels continue to demonstrate the power, diversity, and profound ecological influence of Earth's oceans. "Frozen Seas" examines whales, walrus, penguins, and other creatures under the extreme conditions of the Arctic and Antarctic Circles. Following episodes are "Open Ocean" / "The Deep" / "Seasonal Seas" / "Coral Seas" / "Tidal Seas" and "Coasts".



The great White Bear

Region: Arctic

Directed by: William Long and David Wright

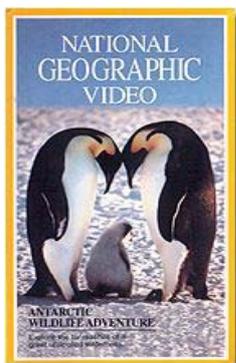
Running Time : 55 min.

Year : 1999

Available in DVD

Links: <http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/>

A polar bear family album. Discover the fate of a polar bear and her twins cubs at the icy top of the world. National Geographic cameras follow the family during a two-year Arctic odyssey filled with touching and unforgettable moments, many never filmed before. Watch in wonder as curious cubs emerge from their den for the first time after a three-month hibernation—go "ice-crashing" with the polar bear family as they hunt for seals—feel the tension as the mother protects her cubs from a hostile male, one of many dangers lurking.....



Antarctic Wildlife Adventure

Region: Antarctica

Directed by: several
Running Time : 60 min.
Year : 1997
Available in DVD

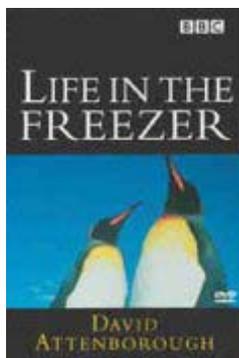
Set sail with a family of real-life explorers for the most remote and starkly beautiful continent on earth - Antarctica. Aboard the 50 foot schooner *Damien II*, a husband-wife naturalist team and their three sons will guide you on the voyage of a lifetime. Rocky coasts, azure blue seas, and magnificent towering icebergs set the backdrop for a wide variety of wildlife as you navigate south through the islands of the pristine Antarctic peninsula. From the deck of the small craft you will see humpback whales perform a graceful underwater ballet. And while on shore you will mingle with three species of penguins as well as marvel at young elephant seals at play. Join *National Geographic* for the ultimate Antarctic Wildlife Adventure!



In Greenland, seals are rising now...

Region: Arctic
Directed by: P. Lespinasse, Y. Charles and L. Giraudineau
Running Time : 26 min.
Year : 1996
Available in VHS
Links: Zarafa films - www.zarafa-films.com

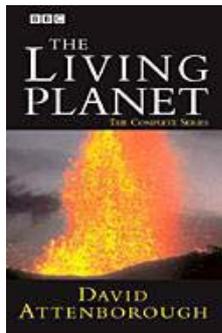
Since 1983, following an international campaign for the defence of animals, the hunting of baby seals has been banned. The member countries of the EEC have agreed to stop importing the baby seal furs. Only a few years ago an endangered species, the Harp seal is today beginning to proliferate. From year to year, Canadian authorities have noted a rise in the seal population. "They eat more fish than all the fishing boats in the north-west Atlantic can catch" worries one fisherman. It is only today that the seal - loved by all - is an untouchable animal. It has been saved by its good looks....



Life in The Freezer

Region: Antarctica
Directed by: several
Running Time : 178 min.
Year : 1993
Available in DVD

What does it take to survive in the coldest place on Earth? For Weddell seals, enduring Antarctic winters means staying under water - where, even at subzero temperatures, it's warmer beneath the ice. Renowned naturalist Sir David Attenborough leads you on a spectacular journey through this remote, ice-covered continent. See how savage winds chisel away solid granite boulders, mummify a 3000-year-old seal, and force emperor penguins to huddle together to protect their eggs. Retrace the steps from nearly a century ago of the area's first explorers as a British team races to the South Pole against a Norwegian expedition. And follow modern-day scientists as they struggle to live and work in the coldest corner of the Earth.



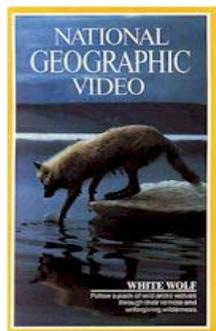
The Living Planet

Region: Arctic / Antarctica / other
Directed by: David Attenborough
Running Time : 715 minutes
Year : 1992

Available in DVD

Links: http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/programmes/who/david_attenborough.shtml

From the sub-zero temperatures of the polar ice-caps to the baking heat of the deserts, from the ash-strewn sides of a volcano to the dense vegetation of a tropical forest, the environments on Earth are no less remarkable than the variety of life itself. And almost nowhere on our planet is devoid of life. Among the many creatures featured are Snow Leopards, Gliding Squirrels, Emperor Penguins and Giant Armadillos.



White Wolf

Region: Arctic

Directed by: Jim Brandenburg and David Mech

Running Time : Approximately 50 minutes

Year : 1989

Available in VHS

Links: <http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/>

In Canada's Ellesmere Island, on the tundra 500 miles south of the North Pole, elusive arctic wolves share their secrets with two patient observers - award-winning photographer Jim Brandenburg and biologist David Mech. Shielded by their remote location and inhospitable climate, these wild animals have not yet learned to fear humans..... Released in 1989, this video still stands as remarkable documentation of humankind's first interaction with the isolated white wolf. Never persecuted or hunted by humans, they are more tolerant than other wolves to their human observers.